

UNCLASSIFIED 8/21/79  
Department of State

OUTGOING  
TELEGRAM

R

PAGE 01 STATE 219179  
ORIGIN ARA-15

9250

INFO OCT-00 ADS-00 HA-05 PA-02 ICAS-00 022 R

AK244

DRAFTED BY ARAVECA:MMADAMS, JR.:MAS  
APPROVED BY ARAVECA:MMADAMS

-----083899 211428Z /53

O 211315Z AUG 79  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 219179

E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS. SHUM, AR

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE

*Argentine*

1. FOLLOWING IS PRESS GUIDANCE USED BY DEPARTMENT  
SPOKESMAN AUGUST 20.  
Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THE REPORTS BY A PRIVATE  
HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION THAT POLITICAL  
PRISONERS ARE BEING KILLED IN ARGENTINA TO PREVENT THEM  
FROM SPEAKING TO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE IAHRC (INTER-  
AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION) WHICH IS SCHEDULED  
TO VISIT THERE SOON FOR THE PURPOSE OF INVESTIGATING  
HUMAN RIGHTS THERE? IS THE U.S. LOOKING INTO IT?

A. THERE HAVE BEEN ALLEGATIONS THAT, IN ADDITION TO  
THE LARGE NUMBER OF POLITICAL PRISONERS WHICH THE  
GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA ACKNOWLEDGES HOLDING, THERE  
MIGHT STILL BE CLANDESTINE PRISON FACILITIES IN ARGENTINA  
WHERE UNACKNOWLEDGED PRISONERS--PRESUMABLY SOME OF THE  
DISAPPEARED--MIGHT BE HELD OR EVEN KILLED. WE ASKED  
OUR EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES TO INVESTIGATE. WE HAVE  
BEEN UNABLE TO CONFIRM OR DENY THESE REPORTS. THE  
GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA HAS STATED THAT THERE ARE NO  
CLANDESTINE DETENTION FACILITIES IN THAT COUNTRY.

WE REMAIN SERIOUSLY CONCERNED OVER THE HUMAN  
RIGHTS CONDITIONS IN ARGENTINA, PARTICULARLY  
THE FATE OF THE MANY WHO HAVE "DISAPPEARED."  
WE CONTINUE TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERNS TO THE  
ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT AND TO URGE IT TO RESTORE  
FULL RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE RULE  
OF LAW. THE GOVERNMENT OF ARGENTINA HAS INVITED  
THE INTER-AMERICAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION  
TO VISIT ARGENTINA, AND THE COMMISSION HAS  
ACCEPTED THIS INVITATION. WE ARE SURE THAT  
NOTHING WILL ARISE WHICH IN ANY WAY INTERFERES  
WITH THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION IN ESTABLISHING  
THE FACTS WITH RESPECT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
SITUATION AT THIS TIME. VANCE

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044)

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

(X) Release ( ) Excise ( ) Deny

Exemption(s):

Declassify: ( ) In Part ( ) In Full

( ) Classify as ( ) Extend as ( ) Downgrade to  
Date Declassify on Reason

UNCLASSIFIED

82 D 103

Box 17400